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ABSTRACT

The value of the humanities is obvious to anyone who has looked to literature for insight, to philosophy for wisdom, to the arts for pleasure. In an effort to demonstrate how the humanities can help modern society deal with some of its most pressing and complex problems, the National Endowment for the Humanities gives grants for scholarly research and public projects that aim to disseminate humanistic knowledge. Realizing the public library's unique potential as an open forum and catalyst in the discussion of community issues and its advantages as a multi-media resource center, in the fall of 1968 the Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) System applied for a grant from the National Endowment. TCCL used government funds for a close examination of modern urban problems. The broad goals of TCCL throughout all three projects were; to deal with the important issues of modern urban life, to provide multi-media information on these topics, and to provide a public forum on the problems encountered. TCCL's administration urged not only library staff members to participate in all phases of the three projects, but also asked the community at large to help develop and implement programs. This document is a narrative and pictorial report of the projects. (Author/SJ)

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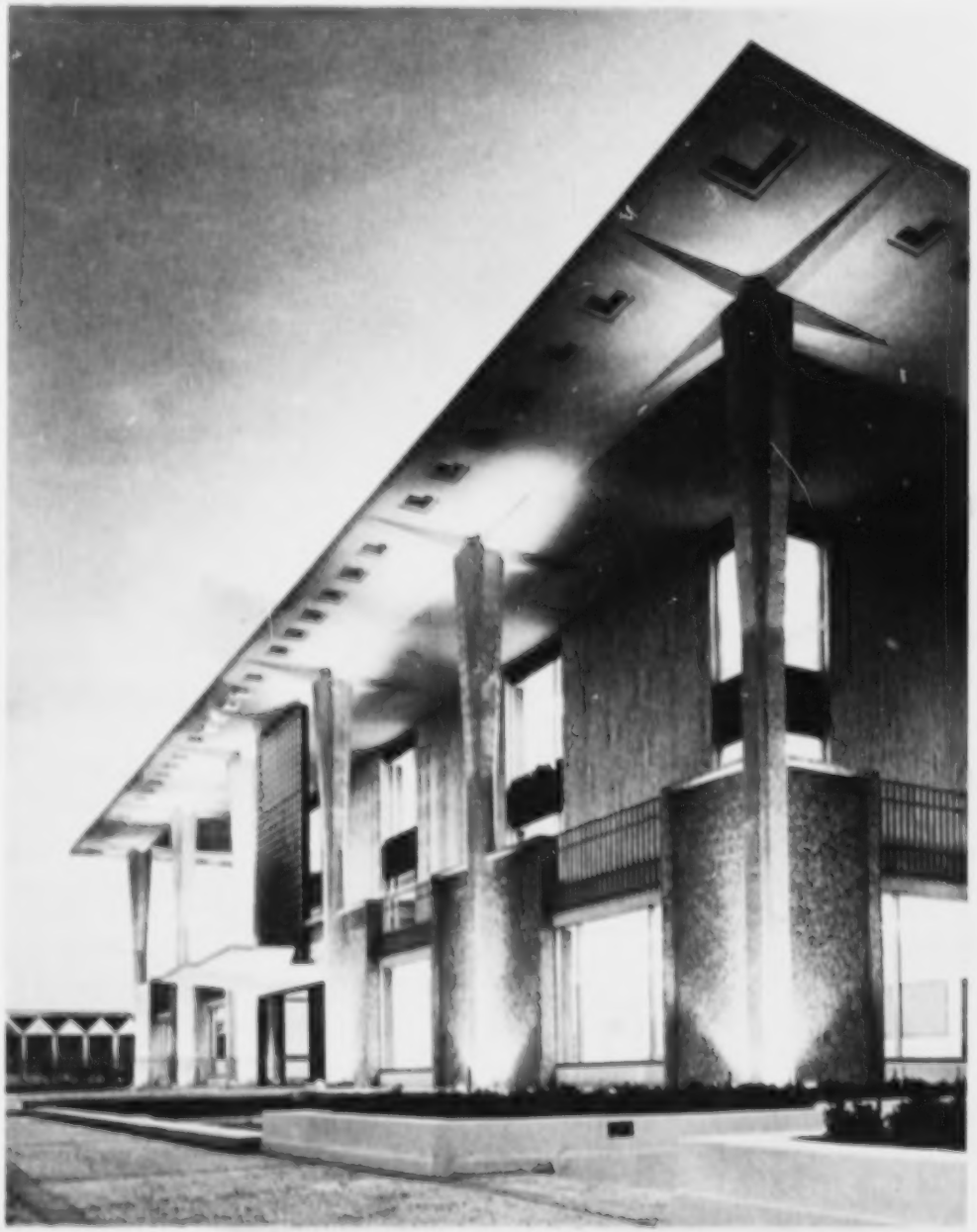
A CATALYST FOR THE HUMANITIES: THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROJECTS OF THE TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

1968 - 1971

A report on outreach projects of the Tulsa City-County Library System funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1968 to 1971

Sample brochures and the slide shows from the projects described in this report may be obtained for use by organizations in and out of Tulsa by contacting the Director's Office, Tulsa City-County Library System, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa,Oklahoma 74103.



A network of eighteen branches, three bookmobiles, a mobile shut-in service and headquarters in downtown Tulsa, TCCL serves a city-county population of 400,000. Financed by ad valorem taxes, the system was created in 1961 when voters agreed to consolidate metropolitan and suburban libraries. A good public image was a significant asset to TCCL as it first moved into humanities programming with the National Endowment.

The value of the humanities is obvious to anyone who has looked to literature for insight, to philosophy for wisdom, to the arts for pleasure. In an effort to demonstrate how the humanities can help modern society deal with some of its most pressing and complex problems, the National Endowment for the Humanities gives grants for scholarly research and public projects that aim to disseminate humanistic knowledge. Realizing the public library's unique potential as an open forum and catalyst in the discussion of community issues and its advantages as a multi-media resource center, in the fall of 1968 the Tulsa City-County Library System applied for a grant from the National Endowment. From the first award of $15,000 to the second grant of $24,500 in 1969 to the final endowment of $59,850 in 1970, TCCL used government funds for a close examination of modern urban problems.

The broad goals of TCCL throughout all three projects were (1) to deal with the important issues of modern urban life, (2) to provide multi-media information on these topics and (3) to provide a public forum where citizens could express divergent opinions on - and solutions to - the problems encountered.

TCCL's administration urged not only library staff members to participate in all phases of the three projects, but also asked the community at large to help develop and implement programs. Officials such as Tulsa's mayor and library commissioners served in advisory capacities. Organizations such as The Friends of the Library, the Arts Council of Tulsa and the University of Tulsa worked closely with the TCCL staff in the planning and presentation of programs.

Allie Beth Martin, TCCL's Director

Roderick G. Swartz, Associate Director, Humanities Projects Director

Technologically, socially, morally, linguistically, today's world faces new ideas and demands new responses. On the assumption that many of our present-day conflicts are rooted in poor comprehension of the bases of change, TCCL attempted to cultivate community understanding of today's problems through

CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION.

This project offered the individual the opportunity to find out why changes are occurring all around him, how changes affect him and how he can adapt to change. The two-fold aim of the project was (1) to demonstrate that the humanities can foster the understanding necessary for men to live together in the modern urban situation and (2) to show the public library's position as the community ground where this demonstration can effectively take place.

A library "think team" of administrators and staff members was organized to implement the project. Because the modern dilemma of change permeates all society, TCCL made great effort to involve all segments of the county community. Three umbrella groups were designated for contact: (1) civic leaders for ideas and guidance, (2) community organizations for program planning and co-sponsorship and (3) members of the press for the publicizing of project goals and programs.

A great variety of program formats and topics appeared necessary if the project were to reach a broad spectrum of citizens. As a result, the library presented 62 different programs to the public at no charge.

During the planning period, four sub-themes emerged for study:

Morality & Religion
Minority Groups
The Generation Gap
The Individual & Society

Programming was planned on two levels: single events designed for individual neighborhoods and communities and series aimed at stimulating broad public interest. Events were scheduled in Central Library's 250-seat Aaronson Auditorium, in the large Civic Assembly Center, in high schools, in churches and in branch libraries. Program content was reinforced through annotated booklists prepared by the Readers Services Department for each sub-theme, plus project-related exhibits and artwork.

To grasp the attention of the public at large, it was agreed that a nationally-known speaker should keynote each week's program. Selections were carefully made to give representation to a broad spectrum of viewpoints: Dr. John Bennett, President of Union Theological Seminary - "Morality and Religion"; Dr. James Farmer, Asst. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare - "Minority Groups"; Nat Hentoff, dynamic young author and apologist for the under-30 set - "The Generation Gap" and Dr. Russell Kirk, author of "The Conservative Stand" - "The Individual and Society". Reactor panels composed of local citizens accompanied each speaker in an effort to bring out Tulsa's views on the issues discussed.

Branch programs relevant to the overall project theme ranged from a demonstration of early protest songs at the Broken Arrow Library to an examination of community history in the Bixby Library.

KICK-OFF WEEK

The project's opening week featured examinations of dissent in American society. The implications of nonconformity and probing versus privacy were among the dimensions of disagreement studied. Program formats during this first week ranged from a book review to open forums.

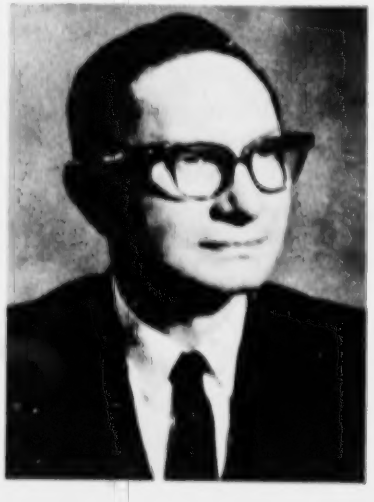
"Coffee with Controversy", a Sunday evening public forum series held at Central Library, presented a discussion of the extent of dissent in the modern world and its bearing on society.

The kick-off week culminated in a showing of "A Taste of Honey", a study of disagreement and change in family relationships.

Photo: Walter Reade 16

MORALITY & RELIGION

"Morality and Religion" offered nine programs in six days and nights of outreach during the following week. Among the programs exploring the elements and results of change in our moral and religious spheres were "The New Morality in Fiction", discussed by a local Unitarian minister and 35 housewives in a city branch, "Eastern Philosophies and Religion", a demonstration of classical Indian dances at Central Library and "Changing Art Forms in a Changing Society",a lecture-slide presentation on social change as reflected in the visual arts.



Dr. John Bennett, President of Union Theological Seminary, spoke on "Morality and Religion" to Tulsa area citizens at the Civic Assembly Center.

MINORITY GROUPS

The third week of programming dealt with the problems of racial minorities in today's America. Shown at community recreation centers, films such as "Five Civilized Tribes",which concerns the status of many Indians in our modern society, and "Jimmy", depicting the problems of a black high school dropout, were among the events surrounding James Farmer's mid-week address, "Our Changing Race Relations". "Experiment in Theater" explored the issue with readings from Brecht's "The Jewish Wife", plus portions of "The Job" and "Take Care of Business" by Ben Caldwell.

Racial dilemmas were further explored in "Cracks in the Melting Pot" during "Controversy with Coffee".

James Farmer opened "The Black Book Fair" at the Seminole Hills Branch. The need for a black book store was first expressed to the library staff at a Model Cities meeting. Serious and heated talks over the books to be selected and the publicity to be released lent reality to two of the project's sub-topics. Subsequent humanities project efforts culminated in the designation of the Seminole Hills Branch as a black resource center.

THE GENERATION GAP

During the fourth week, attention centered on that bewildering situation, "the generation gap". Crowds viewing the "Feature Film"event - "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" - were so great that a second showing was necessary."Experiment in Theater" by the Drama Department of the University of Tulsa included selections from "Death of a Salesman" and "King Lear". "Books Sandwiched In", a popular noontime book review series sponsored by the Friends of the Library, offered "Viewpoint of Two Generations". "Controversy with Coffee" delved into "The Impossible Years".

Nat Hentoff, novelist and"New Yorker" staff writer, spoke with young adults at a city branch library and with the general community at the Civic Assembly Center. His discussions focused on plausible approaches to closing the chasms that divide generations in modern America.

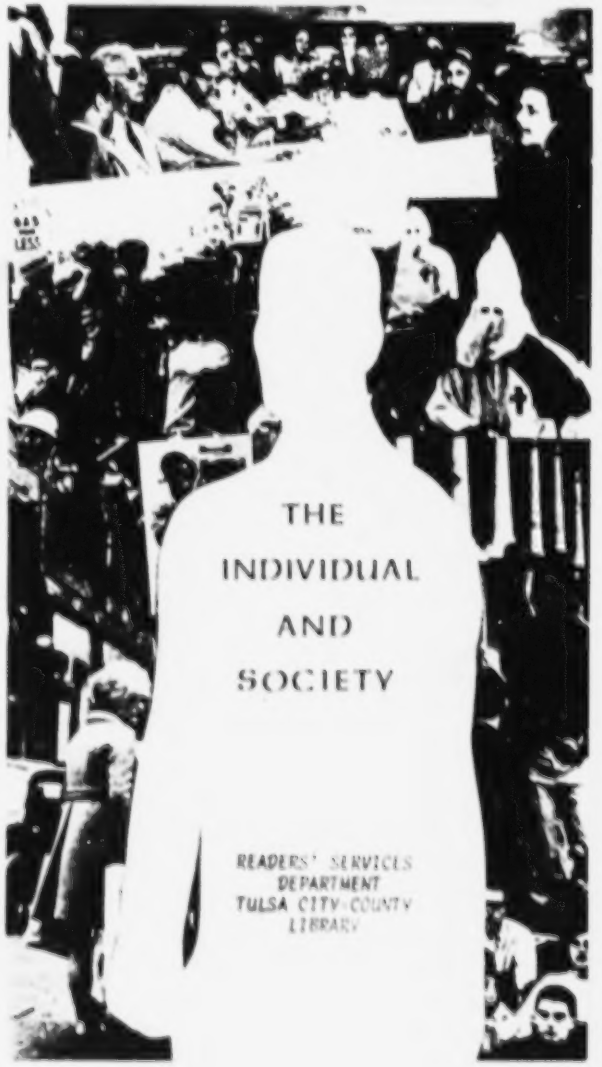
Co-sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, "The Current Scene in Music" drew a mixed audience of young and old.

THE INDIVIDUAL & SOCIETY

"The Individual and Society" was the theme for the fifth week of programs. In its final production, "Experiment in Theater" presented readings from Anouihl's "Antigone" at Central Library. "Feature Films" concluded with "Nobody Waved Goodbye", shown in a public high school auditorium.

Filmwork was an integral part of "the Individual and Society". Branch libraries, recreation centers and a church showed library films to depict varying relationships between individuals and society as a whole while TU students presented original films on the week's sub-theme at Central Library.

Russell Kirk, author of "The Old House of Fear" and "The Conservative Stand", spoke to Tulsa area citizens on the position of the individual and society.



WRAP-UP

During the closing week of CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION, five varying programs were presented at county branch libraries and other community centers. These events were geared to neighborhood tastes, ranging from a look at the history of modern art to a film showing with informal discussion.

"Book 'n' Coffee" at the Owasso Library closed out project events in that suburban community.

As the final major speaker on the agenda, Dr. J. Clayton Feaver, Director of the Southwest Center for Human Relations, presented "Implications and Applications: Tulsa in Change". During the planning stage of the project, Dr. Feaver had been employed to attend the lectures of the four previous speakers and to synthesize their remarks in a closing address.

In evaluating CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION, staff team members unanimously felt that the project had been successful on many levels. Accordingly, TCCL applied for a second grant from the National Endowment for a project which would further explore community concerns. Goals again were to demonstrate the validity of the humanities in dealing with the issues of modern life and to demonstrate the library's role as an open forum. A new aim was to show that the public library can act effectively as a resource-stimulus for dialogue and problem-solving by encouraging other groups within the community to develop forums on live issues.

As in the past, community leaders and humanities-oriented organizations (such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews) were consulted. In addition, the library sought to include groups that did not ordinarily use the library in pursuit of their goals, such as the Tulsa Labor Council, the Tulsa Juvenile Court and the Chamber of Commerce. Members of the news media were again contacted for understanding and support.

Throughout the community-library discussions, three concerns consistently emerged: (1) the increasing alienation of the individual in modern society, the communication barriers between individuals and among groups, (2) the rapid deterioration of our physical, emotional and intellectual environments and (3) the effects of advancing science and technology on mankind. From these issues evolved:

THE HUMAN CONDITION -- A QUESTION OF VALUES

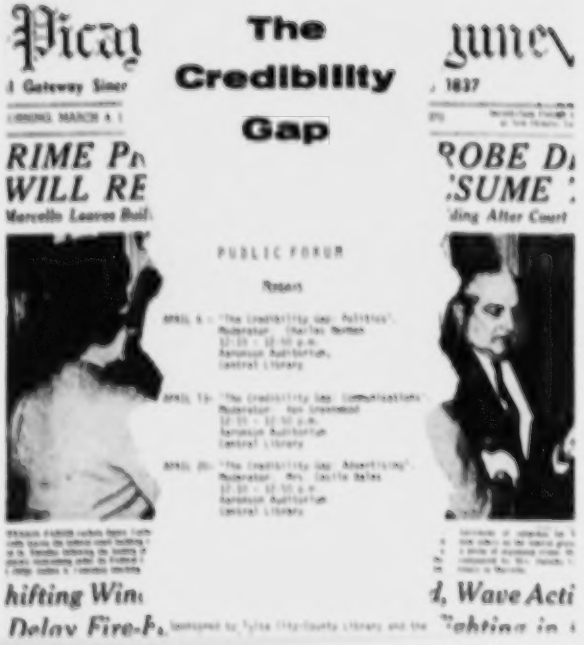
As planning got underway, three dimensions of the human condition were selected as sub-topics:

Man Alone - his isolation and his search for individual identity and fulfillment

Man Together - social relationships and the need for group action to solve the problems engulfing all mankind

Man In The Future - the necessity of developing science and technology to serve human needs.

Based on experiences in the 1969 project, it appeared that a multi-media presentation of theme and sub-themes would be most effective in attracting people from all areas of the community. However, the team felt that a different approach to scheduling could draw larger audiences. Analysis of attendance showed, for example, that Sunday afternoon was a good program time for Tulsans. Almost two-thirds of the 1970 humanities programs were thus slated for weekends.



Two successful series - "Controversy with Coffee" and "Books Sandwiched In" - were carried over to the new project with the cooperation of their original sponsors. In addition, two new series - "The Creative Impulse" and "The Credibility Gap" - were developed. Again, booklists and exhibits were related to project themes.

MAN ALONE

Seven events exploring the individual's isolation from the group and his personal creative expression were held at Central Library, TU and the Living Arts Center.

"Books Sandwiched In" opened these studies with a review of "Catch 22". An audience of 250 heard a TU English professor discuss author Joseph Heller's ideas on the individual's rejection of social groups. "The Creative Impulse" featured TU's Director of the School of Music in "The Music You Love to Hate", an electronic music lecture-demonstration. TU students had an opportunity to show their original work in "The Underground Films", which has since been expanded into the annual Southwest Film Festival competition. Both the alienation of the individual and his creative impulse were reflected in a staging of Albee's "The Zoo Story".

Heller himself came to Tulsa to discuss the alienation of the individual. Held at the University of Tulsa, his lecture drew a capacity audience of all ages.

At Central Library movie-goers saw "Becket", a film dealing with the communication barriers that exist even between friends.

Photo: Dialogue With the World Film Program

MAN TOGETHER

This phase of THE HUMAN CONDITION emphasized the need for more effective communication in the political world,between various age groups and in the business world. "Controversy with Coffee" presented a forum on the relationships between unions and management. The audience discussed the servant-or-tyrant status of labor with a panel of regional business and labor leaders. Author and syndicated columnist James Jackson Kilpatrick spoke about social and political relationships in light of recent Supreme Court decisions. This event, co-sponsored by the Tulsa Press Club, drew 90 affluent and conservative older citizens,a group that does not regularly attend library programs. Young adults dramatized relations among different ethnic groups in "Some of My Best Friends".

The Tulsa Public School System co-sponsored the visit of Dr. Edwin Fenton, Professor of History, Carnegie Institute of Technology, who addressed 150 parents, students and teachers on "The Good Man, the Good Life, the Good Society". A leading advocate of reform in social studies programs, Dr. Fenton emphasized the need to teach students the skills of inquiry and analysis that will equip them for independent thinking and responsible citizenship.

Dr. Mary Beth Peters, internationally-recognized consultant on group dynamics, led Tulsans in "An Adventure in Communication". Stressing the significance of gestures, listening and other factors in conversation, Dr. Peters helped 200 persons to gain a better understanding of effective communication techniques.

MAN IN THE FUTURE

Jane Jacobs, noted author and editor, presented "The Future of the Cities...The Real Problem" at a Tulsa Unitarian church. In objection to current city planning practices,Miss Jacobs suggested some radical new strategies for preserving the urban centers of America. Co-sponsored by the Tulsa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Miss Jacobs' discussion drew architectural students from schools across the state as well as local citizens.

Emphasizing the increasing unlivability of our environment, the project's third segment studied the humanistic values that man uses in making the choices demanded by science and technology.

Five programs examined the scientific forces rapidly changing our society, as well as the problems and opportunities involved in these changes.

Setting the stage was "Science and the Humanities: A Reconciliation?". Panel for this "Controversy with Coffee" forum consisted of five professional people representing both disciplines. Their discussions focused on the need for turning out policy makers who are aware of the implications of modern scientific application.

The United Nations Association of Tulsa expressed its concern over our sometimes tenuous hold on the future by presenting Charles P. Noyes, former member of the U S delegation to the UN in "Controlling the Conflicts of the 1970 s".

Photo: Dialogue With the World Film Program

The overwhelming changes that modern mass media impose on society, and some of the resulting alienations, were explored in the film "Blow Up" at Central Library.

As the programs of THE HUMAN CONDITION...A QUESTION OF VALUES drew to a close and TCCL moved into its evaluation period, the American Institute of Discussion carried on project themes. Nine discussion groups met for eight weeks to deal with topics such as "The Unusual Individual in Society" and "Relating to Others in an Age of Organization".

Booklists and exhibits related to the sub-themes of THE HUMAN CONDITION were provided by TCCL for its patrons.

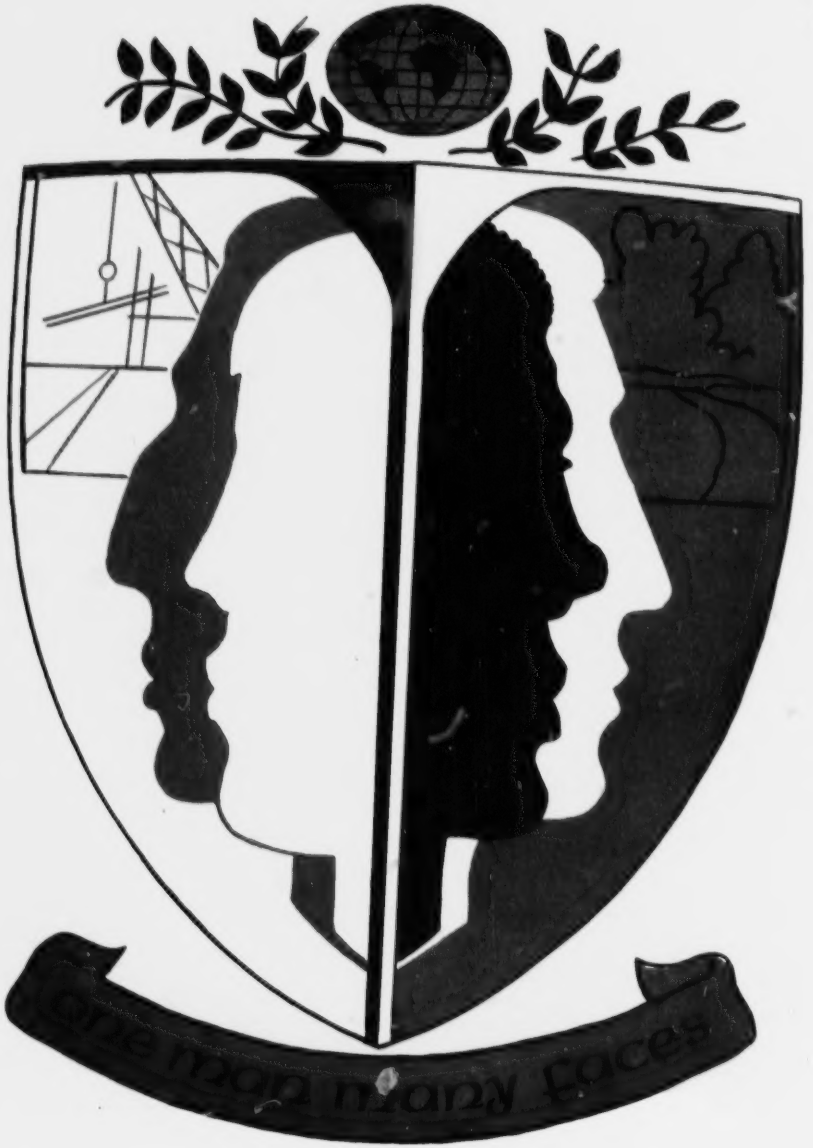
During TCCL's first two humanities projects the need for expressing the past and present roles of Tulsa's various ethnic groups was brought to the fore. In CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION, for example, the black and red communities showed concern over maintaining their own heritage while living with other groups in modern urban society. The white community, while discussing the environmental issue of THE HUMAN CONDITION...A QUESTION OF VALUES, voiced concern over the destruction of many buildings historically significant to its heritage.

Such comments suggested the value of exploring Tulsa's multiethnic background to find ways in which the humanities might strengthen common bonds. Basic to the proposal was a desire to broaden the base of community cooperation. With an award of $59,850, TCCL began the implementation of its third humanities project with the cooperation of the University of Tulsa and the Arts Council of Tulsa (representing 65 organizations).

Step one was to determine the major ethnic groups which had contributed to the founding of America, especially to Oklahoma and Tulsa. Following this survey, members of the library project team began interviews with individuals and organizations representing the Anglo-Saxon, the black, the Indian, the Jewish and the Mexican-American communities. The numerically small, but vividly influential,Greek and Lebanese were also contacted.

The title chosen for the project was integral to its theme:

PRIDE IN HERITAGE



Great effort was made to encompass all schools of thought within each ethnic group. For example, young black militants as well as older and conservative black citizens were asked for ideas. On the basis of past projects, the library staff first assumed that a neatly structured committee approach to the intended program was the ideal way to exchange ideas. Immediately it became evident that the multi-ethnic community did not lend itself to such tightly organized, unified planning. Within the Indian community alone it was impossible to gather all tribes into one working group. The most obvious communications gap was found in the white community which had difficulty in seeing its heritage intertwined with minority ethnic groups. As planning progressed, intensive one-to-one relationships developed between team members and individuals in the various ethnic groups.

Based on the premise that pride in heritage must be an integral part of every self-respecting individual, programs were designed to stimulate awareness of how each heritage enriches our total community. Similarities were to be stressed rather than differences, with focus put on ways of establishing harmonious relationships.

Project goals were four-fold: (1) to demonstrate the role of the library in drawing diverse groups throughout the community together in working relationships; (2) to expand the utilization of community resources by involving the library with a wide variety of agencies and organizations; (3) to make materials and resources more readily available to all ethnic groups; (4) to create an awareness of the library as a forum for all points of view and as a resource center for problem-solving.

"We're tired of talking" - a comment often heard during planning sessions - led to the exclusion of a lecture series. Still wishing, however, to bring well-known names into the project, the staff team and its advisors decided to feature creative artists whose achievements centered on their racial heritages.

"The Creative Impulse" was continued with an examination of the literature, art, music, drama and dance of various heritages. Other special series featured southwest folk music and the sacred music of three ethnic groups. In a new approach, "Feature Films" explored the western mystique in our culture. "Coffee and Controversy" became "Coffee and Encounter" when sponsorship of the forums passed into the hands of TU. A special effort was made to promote understanding among young people, with the Children's Services Division offering four major events, plus films and special programs throughout the county.

"The Kiowa Heritage" delved into many aspects of that tribe's cultural background.

"Books Sandwiched In" again reflected the project theme with reviews of "Mr. De: A Biography of Everett Lee DeGolyer" and "The Ordeal of Running Standing" included on the agenda. Allie Beth Martin, Director of TCCL, opened this series with her review of "The Greening of America".

Project-related exhibits were again a popular aspect of the humanities project. The Fine Arts Department enlisted the aid of the Roten Gallery of New York in collecting a display of works by contemporary ethnic artists. The Tulsa County Historical Society, the Sand Springs Historical Society and Tulsa's famed Gilcrease Museum worked together in presenting an "Early Oklahoma" exhibit.

POPULAR PERFORMERS

Outstanding entertainers whose performances centered around their ethnic backgrounds appeared in various Tulsa auditoriums.

Folk music enthusiasts from four states came to hear Jean Ritchie, internationally-known recording artist and author. On Saturday afternoon, Miss Ritchie conducted a folk instrument workshop with the public invited to bring instruments and favorite songs. The warmth and informality of this Children's Services program carried over to her afternoon performance of songs from the Cumberland mountains.

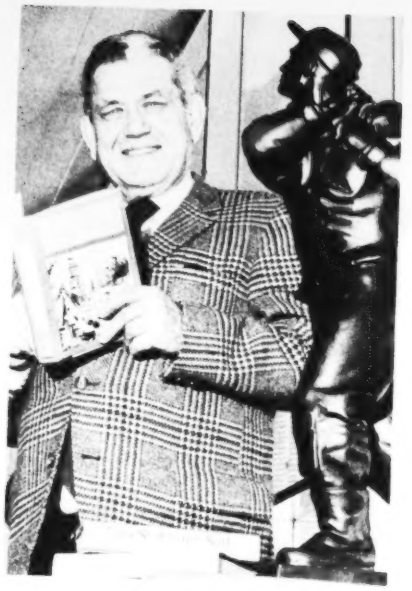
Dancer, choreographer, singer, painter, actor and "the un-cola man" on tv commercials, Geoffrey Holder held a large audience spellbound as he highlighted black achievement in his impromptu "Instant Theater". Co-sponsor was the Arts Council of Tulsa.

Drawing upon the poetry of Langston Hughes, Paul Dunbar and others, award-winning actress Paulene Meyers characterized the "proud and pathetic black history" in her one-woman show, "The World of My America". She also conducted a workshop for Tulsa students, emphasizing the use of movement in dramatization. Co-sponsor was the Student Senate of TU.

THE CREATIVE IMPULSE

Coordinated by a black professor from the University of Tulsa, Dr. Cecelia Palmer, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black in the Age of Aquarius" was a collage of drama, poetry, music and dance. The program so meaningfully expressed the black experience that non-blacks spontaneously joined in the finale.

Opening "The Creative Impulse" series, Dr. William A. Owens spoke on "Oil Field Folk Lore and Legend". The author of several books about the heritage of the southwest, Dr. Owens' visit to TCCL was planned in cooperation with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.



A colorful "Afternoon of Greek Folk Dancing", presented by members of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, drew a capacity crowd at Central Library. Each dance featured in the program was explained in terms of Greek culture and history. Many members of the audience joined in the dancing towards the close of the program.

SACRED MUSIC SERIES

For the first time, the sacred music and dances of the E-Lon-Schka, a religious ceremony dating back three centuries, were publicly presented. Morris Lookout and members of his family demonstrated and explained the rites as a part of the "Sacred Music Series".

Hymns of the Eastern Church were featured in the "Sacred Music Series" with James Economou directing the choir of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Program commentary by Pope Economou Kingsley illustrated their meanings.

The Chorus of Angels, an integrated choir, performed spirituals and gospels under the direction of Elmer L. Davis. The group raises funds for scholarships.

SOUTHWEST FOLK MUSIC SERIES

A hand clappin' toe tappin' evening with the Illinois River Bottom Folk of Tahlequah,Okla., opened "On the Trail of Southwest Music". Researched and produced by Guy Logsdon, Director of Libraries, University of Tulsa, this series also included multi-media presentations of the music of Bob Wills and Woody Guthrie.

ETHNIC FOODS

An appreciation of ethnic talents is readily inspired through the sampling of culinary achievements. Almost 800 persons - the largest crowd in its history - attended the Mexican Dinner and Fiesta at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Authentic Indian dishes were enjoyed at a luncheon sponsored by PIPE. Oklahoma Natural Gas provided facilities for a kitchen demonstration of Lebanese dishes by Mrs. Sol Bayouth. Kosher treats were served following the Fenster Gallery tours. The "Tulsa Daily World" accompanied these with a series of ethnic recipes.

The contributions of the Jewish heritage were further emphasized in Dr. Cyrus Gordon's lecture on the "Mediterranean and Jewish Origins of Western Civilization" at Temple Israel. The Brandeis professor's visit was in co-sponsorship with the Cultural Series of the Jewish Community Council.

The Tulsa Section, National Council of Jewish Women, assisted curator Gerald Richards in tours of the Fenster Gallery of Judaic Art. Housed at B'nai Emunah Synagogue, this is the third largest collection of rare Judaic art and artifacts open to the public in the United States.

Marian Seldes, noted Broadway actress, sensitively interpreted selections from great Jewish literature in an appearance at B'nai Emunah Synagogue. Another event co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, this program ranged from Biblical writings to contemporary works.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Like adult events, children's Heritage programs included the performing arts and films. "And Now Miguel" and "Island of the Blue Dolphins" (films based on Newbery Award Books) drew large audiences at branch libraries and other community centers throughout the county. Extra performances had to be scheduled for the Lillyput Puppet Show shown at three branch libraries. Created especially for the project by Mrs. Glenn Solomon, a puppeteer of Lebanese decent, it re-created a Lebanese fairytale with a concept of brotherhood.

Library staff members developed and presented "Creative Puppetry Workshop".

A folk dance fiesta by the Mexican-American dancers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was among the major weekend programs developed by the Children's Services Department with Linda Segovia, Parish Council President, as coordinator.

In another program designed for children, young dancers of PIPE - Promoting Indian Productions and Education - presented a variety of Indian dances. PIPE coordinator, Vic Childers, presented commentary on history and costumes. Meantime, a series on Indian history and culture for adults reinforced the goals of the Tulsa Indian Club.

DAY CARE WORKSHOP

During consultations, a foremost need expressed by several ethnic groups was that of improved day care facilities. In co-sponsorship with the Day Care Task Force of the Tulsa Urban Ministry, Dr. Elizabeth Starkweather, a nationally-known authority on child development, conducted a day-long seminar at Central Library. She is pictured at the book display with Day Care Chairman, Mrs. J. Bertis Terrell.

REGIONAL AND ETHNIC AUTHORS FESTIVAL

Isaac Bashevis Singer, called the greatest living Yiddish author, chats with Tulsa author Elizabeth Allen Thompson following his participation in a final-week event co-sponsored by the University of Tulsa English Department. The daylong "Festival of Authors" also featured Dr. Winston Weathers of TU whose works represent the Anglo-Saxon heritage; poet Miguel Gonzales of Austin, Texas, and Melvin B. Tolson, Jr. of the University of Oklahoma reading from the works of his poet father.

"RAP-UP" SEMINAR

In an attempt to synthesize the outreach efforts of the past months and to look at ongoing needs, Dr. Nathan Glazer, co-author of "Beyond the Melting Pot" with Daniel Moynihan, came from Harvard University for a wrap-up seminar. Coordinator for this two-day event was Dr. Nancy Feldman of TU's Sociology Department, a member of the project's Policy and Planning Committee. Dr. Glazer's luncheon address, "Living in a Pluralistic Society", localized and extended issues examined in his books. Following his talk, ethnic representatives shared in small discussion groups. Suggestions were then correlated for future action or exploration. Also featured during the seminar was "Kaleidoscope", a TCCL team round-up of the project which has been expanded into a multi-media slide program available to the public.

EVALUATION

Change: Discovery, Discussion, Decision

In the first project, social topics kept forcing themselves forward as the library's "think group" grappled with program planning. In an effort to bring relevant programming to all areas of Tulsa County, the library staff became immersed in each neighborhood and community to learn of its problems. Discussion in preparation for the "Black Book Fair", for example, put staff vis-a-vis with the communications gap between blacks and whites, with liberal and conservative views within each of these groups. At the end of the project the library's planning body felt compelled to form its own discussion group to search further for answers.

Community agency heads and a selected group of community leaders - two of three major groups contacted - avidly responded to program themes such as race relationships and changing moral concepts. They saw the library as the ideal agency to act as a community forum. Consultation with the third major group - the press - took a different turn. Immediate reaction was that the library was not the public agency to manage such a seminar. Members of the press corps pointed out that the library system was new, currently enjoyed strong community support and should not endanger its position by dealing with controversial issues. The public relations luncheon ended in a heated discussion of the position of the press itself on social issues.

Presentation of all four subtopics did follow the library's official policy of presenting all points of view, both in its collection of materials and its programs. In one of the telephone interviews which followed the first project, a black professional leader perhaps best expressed the impact of the open forum concept: "We think of the library as a haven where everyone is welcome and can speak his mind without pressure from anyone. It's like a breath of fresh air."

The only expression of disapproval towards this forum approach was a letter to a newspaper, written by a resident of a bordering state. Requests for library meeting space from diverse groups, including those of a controversial nature, continues.

CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION directly touched approximately 10,000 individuals. Many others were reached through exhibits, newspapers, radio, television, magazines and various other channels.

Some results were obvious. The "Tulsa Tribune" began carrying the column of Russell Kirk, one of the project's keynote speakers. In March of 1969, a new Center for the Humanities was established at the University of Tulsa. Expanding relationships between TU and TCCL resulted in the school's official participation in 1971's PRIDE IN HERITAGE.

Other effects were often very personal. How are we to know the number of cases like that of the personnel

manager of a large Tulsa firm, reporting his experience in a follow-up interview? After attending the intensive week of programs on minority groups, he felt that for the first time he could deal with members of the black race, whom he met daily, on an equal basis.

The Human Condition

As with the first project, many results of the HUMAN CONDITION were intangible and hard to assess. What is added to a city when a New England minister is encouraged to move to the Southwest because, among other things, his wife is delighted with a brochure about TCCL's humanities series? project? How can we measure the possible influence that Jane Jacobs has had on some 20 architectural faculty and students who travelled from a state university to hear her speak? What perspective has been added to the thinking of several hundred businessmen who have been exposed to new insights of the humanities during noontime book reviews?

More identifiable results were obtained from audience on-the-spot questionnaires and subsequent community contacts made by the TCCL team during its evaluation period.

Over 12,000 persons directly participated in 35 programs and nine discussion groups which took place during February,March and April. Thousands of others were reached through the exhibits, booklists and the on-going multimedia show. Specific programs stimulated a variety of far-reaching effects and long-range programs:

A course on Joseph Heller's works was slated for the minimester during January 1971 at TU. Given several opportunities to consult with this author, representatives of the Tulsa Little Theater went on to win state, and later national, play competition with their production of Heller's "We Bombed in New Haven".

A videotape of Dr. Edwin Fenton's teaching methods was incorporated into the in-service training of the Tulsa Public Schools. His textbooks were adopted by the State Textbook Commission and added to the curriculum of public schools in Tulsa. Tulsa was later assured as the site of a future national convention of social studies teachers. Humanities courses were initiated at the junior high level in Tulsa public school system and TCCL's director was invited to meet with school officials planning a new high school humanities curriculum.

Dr. Mary Beth Peters was invited to repeat her communications workshop for school administrators and guidance personnel in the public school system.

An awareness of the scope and quality of the library was added to the training workshops of union councillors by the Tulsa Labor Council Education Director.

Requests came from agencies and individuals throughout the country, indicating interest in the development of

similar programs founded in the humanities. Oklahoma State University, planning to extend beyond home extension and agricultural services into liberal arts involvement, asked TCCL to help as a liaison with the community. The library was asked by a student planning committee to help in the development of high school assembly and cultural programs.

Growing out of the planning phase of THE HUMAN CONDITION, a Program Resource Directory was developed by the Tulsa Adult Education Council with the aid of the library. Listing resources for community programs, including detailed contact information, it pointed to the expanding role of the library as a clearinghouse for all types of community information.

Pride in Heritage

The professional evaluation of PRIDE IN HERITAGE by a sociologist reinforced the TCCL staff analysis of the project as a program series opening up new areas of awareness, a new ethnic pride, much new enjoyment for the community and an expansion of the library's role in the community.

More than 20,000 persons from all segments of Tulsa County and from four other states were reached in more than 50 events. Particularly rewarding was the support that each ethnic group gave to the programs of other heritages. Audience questionnaires revealed that the biggest criticism of the programs was that they were "too short". The prevailing question was "Why aren't there more programs like this?" and the most common suggestion was "Let's have more of these". As a result TCCL has continued contact with ethnic groups and, among other cooperative ventures, has featured them on its half-hour television show.

On-the-spot impressions of audiences indicated that PRIDE IN HERITAGE had immediate impact. A 35-year old college graduate, for instance, wrote of the Jean Ritchie folk music program: "It's the kind of thing that should happen in parks and neighborhoods all over. This is a marvelously effective way to teach history and to offer a sense of continuity with the land and its peoples." Of the Southwest Folk Music Series, a teenager asked, "Why has Oklahoma's music been buried from the average person's view?" and a 40-year old observed, "We all have so much to give one another." Following three presentations by the Tulsa Indian Club, audiences lingered long afterward to learn more of the culture and contributions of various tribes. The E-Lon-Schka program inspired one white man to ask, "Why did we want to convert the Indians to the white man's religion when they had always worshiped in their own way? I believe that we should have left them alone."

Many individual programs stimulated new activities in the Tulsa area. "To Be Young, Gifted and Black" resulted in the formation of an integrated dance group. Similar enthusiastic response to the Southwest music program stimulated the formation of a Tulsa fiddlers' club.

A dulcimer group was instigated following Jean Ritchie's performances. The Greek group was invited to repeat its history and dance program at a local high school, drawing the comment that "It's fun to be with a group of people who enjoy their heritage so much." Mrs. Glenn Solomon was asked to present her Lilly-put Puppets as a fund-raising event for a new church. New invitations also came to the Jewish community,with the women asked to share Passover traditions at a local Protestant church. An increase in attendance at Fenster Gallery tours encouraged that organization's development of other out-reach projects. After featuring the heritage of various Indian tribes in a variety of programs, the library was asked to assist in the formation of the Tulsa Indian Youth Council. Through the success of the Tulsa library projects, the National Endowment for the Humanities was encouraged to include Oklahoma as one of the six states to receive $100,000 for broader programming in 1971-72. The recipient agency - Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council - has directed $7,500 of this to TCCL for a fourth project.

Further details may be obtained from the Tulsa City-County Library System, the National Endowment for the Humanities and from these publications: "American Libraries", June 1970, *"A Community Finds Its Forum"* by Roderick G. Swartz and "Wilson Library Bulletin", Jan. 1972, *"Humanities in the Library: The Role of the National Endowment for the Humanities"*. Two slide shows, "TCCL -- A Likely Place" and "One Man, Many Faces", are available for showing to organizations.

Impact of the Humanities Projects on the Community

Over the three-year period, TCCL's humanities projects had a great effect upon Tulsa. By the third year, 58 of 100 people surveyed by sociologist Nancy Feldman were aware of the projects and were able to describe them. This is considered a high percentage of positive responses since the evaluator made certain to interview proportions of uneducated, low-income and semi-rural people generally uninvolved in community activities. Among the economic and educational groups ordinarily interested in a library program, 100 per cent were aware of the library-sponsored projects. The awareness level among the somewhat less civically oriented, less involved but educated groups was 82 per cent, considered extraordinarily high; their relative awareness of other local programs or issues was only 67 per cent. The audience questionnaires also showed surprisingly large participation from low-income and ethnic areas of the city and from small surrounding towns and hamlets of low socioeconomic status.

Agencies throughout the county were involved in the series - consequently closer ties with them resulted. Take the case of the Arts Council of Tulsa: The Council expressed growing interest in the projects during the first two years of programming; during the third year

it became - along with the University of Tulsa - a full co-sponsor of the entire project. Discussion is now underway to expand the Arts Council of Tulsa into an arts and humanities agency.

Similar responses were evident with other groups. Work with minority sections of the community proved to be particularly rewarding. The Indian community, for example, was extremely responsive to project aims and approaches. Library personnel found themselves involved with Indian dinners, the Mayor's Commission on Indian Affairs and the activities of various tribes.

A group reluctant at first to recognize the library as an open forum for the humanities was the press. Its original hesitation, expressed during CHANGE: DISCOVERY, DISCUSSION, DECISION, soon turned to support when unique approaches to topics made the programs newsworthy. It is estimated that during the first project alone, the radio/tv public service support would have cost $55,558 at commercial rates - a generous community contribution in view of the media's first reluctance.

The response most difficult to secure - but perhaps most worthwhile - was that of the individual Tulsan. As pointed out in the Feldman study, recognition of the projects has been high throughout the community. Most people referred to each project as "the humanities series" rather than using the specific project name. Citizens of Tulsa apparently came to see the humanities as a means through which to discuss current issues and to relate these issues to the past, the present and the future.

Impact on the Library

As the humanities series developed the Tulsa City-County Library began to cultivate and strengthen certain basic assumptions as to what a public library should be.

1. The library as an open forum: On all programs and in all issues, the project teams made an effort to see that each issue was examined in every possible light. This is extended into the total meeting schedule of the library system: All groups - political, civic, educational - liberal, midroad, conservative - are encouraged to meet at the library. This open forum was questioned in August of 1970 when a patron criticized the inclusion of "Ramparts" and "Evergreen" in TCCL's collections. The materials were retained by the library after an examination and hearing by the Library Commission. In this case TCCL demonstrated again that it is indeed an open forum where widely divergent points of view are expressed in the collections as well as in the many programs and activities conducted regularly throughout the system.

2. The library as an agent of community outreach and as a community catalyst: As the humanities programming took shape, TCCL found itself delving into all aspects of the community. An example from the first project is the "Black Book Fair". This endeavor exemplified the

efforts of the library staff to project itself into every area of Tulsa County to discover major issues. TCCL then attempted to bring these to a public hearing so that better Tulsawide understanding might result. The need for a black book store, featuring black art, culture and heritage, had first been brought to the attention of the library staff at a Model Cities' meeting. Immediately, a series of discussions began among the young black leadership, the older black establishment and TCCL staff members. After serious talks over the books to be selected and the publicity to be released, the fair opened with the assistance of a nationally-owned book store outlet.

Over the three year period, TCCL continued to serve as a community outreach agent and to develop its role as a community catalyst. Because of its expanding knowledge of Tulsa's varied publics, the library found itself in the position of putting groups with needs in touch with groups with solutions. An outstanding instance of this was Tulsa's first Indian Trade Fair. In this case, TCCL helped members of the Indian community to contact the Metropolitan Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and a large suburban shopping center. The result was a three-day exhibit and sale of arts and crafts in the shopping mall.

3. The library as a resource center: TCCL made further efforts to develop its role as an information and resource center. Materials of all types were added to the collections to strengthen library holdings on the issues discovered and discussed during the projects. Of individuals contacted during the three year period, a large number are now consistent library users; organizations contacted are continuing to turn to the library for resources, materials and program cooperation. It is also felt that the increase of gifts to the library can be greatly attributed to the contacts and good image reinforced through the humanities projects. An example of this is the $7,000 grant from the First National Bank and Trust Company of Tulsa for the purchase of the 13 "Civilisation" films, a gift stimulated through TCCL's increasingly close relationship with the Arts Council and a growing awareness of the library among influential members of the business community.

4. The library as a cultural center: Because of the effort to maintain a consistently high level of programming in the series, TCCL has been recognized as a major community outlet for cultural events. An often heard comment during the closing phases of the three years was "These humanities programs are always excellent; one must get here early to get a seat." The library continues to do more of this type of programming with two guidelines kept in mind: 1) an attempt to involve other community groups on a co-sponsorship basis and 2) a search for issues and needs not being discussed elsewhere in the community.

Impact on Librarianship

An institution cannot undertake a lengthy, far-reaching project which involves challenging new directions without having a firm effect upon its staff.

Each of TCCL's humanities projects was based on the task force concept. Individuals with certain capabilities were freed to some extent from other responsibilities in order to develop the projects. A great rapport developed among the members of each project team. For example, as the first project progressed, task force members found themselves deeply involved with the issues at hand,intently searching for answers. The discussions preparing for the "Black Book Fair" brought them face to face with the black-white situation. A private dinner party prior to one of the major speaker programs turned out to be a prime example of the generation gap. At the end of the series the library task force felt compelled to form its own discussion group to look further for answers.

Commitments on members of the project team were constantly demanding. A full week of planning, publicity and community contacts might be coupled with a Monday noon series, a Thursday evening program and a Sunday afternoon speaker, plus the receptions, press conferences, dinners and behind-the-scenes work that are an inherent part of a series of this caliber.

Such a project could not be sustained by the task force arrangement over a continuing period of time because of its highly demanding nature. But experiments with this working concept have led into a further look at the advantages of participatory management for TCCL.

Working with other agencies on a co-sponsorship basis proved to be another challenge. While the library had long cooperated with community organizations, new problems were encountered when an effort was made to involve three or four independent agencies as co-sponsors of a series. To produce an outstanding program,to make the best use of all talents available and to maintain a good level of understanding among all participating groups proved to be a challenging assignment.

Not all TCCL staff members see the humanities projects as innovative, thought-provoking series. Total staff reaction was analyzed by sociologist Nancy Feldman in the January 1972 issue of "Wilson Library Bulletin". Some of those interviewed saw the projects as impediments in the traditional flow of the library's activities and as an intrusion on their "real work". Others have found it a true asset to achievement of the system's overall goals. Dr. Feldman found little correlation between library training or job description and attitude towards the project. It was obvious, however, that the closer an employee was to a project,the more he or she approved of it and felt it worthwhile, or even essential, for library activities.

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